

# CLAIMS

1. A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material, which comprises a laminate of
  - a) a porous polymeric layer adhered to
  - b) at least one woven, knit, or nonwoven fabric, in which the laminate has
    - i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
    - ii) an Ret less than 15 m<sup>2</sup>/Pa.W.
2. The cover of claim 1 wherein the fabric comprises a woven yarn.
3. The cover of claim 2 wherein the fabric comprises a polyester, polyacrylate, polypropylene or a fluoropolymer.
4. The cover of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the porous polymeric layer is selected from polyolefins, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polymethane or a fluoropolymer.
5. The cover of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the porous polymeric layer is porous polytetrafluoroethylene.
6. The cover of claim 1 wherein the air permeability is between 15 and 50 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hour at 200 Pa pressure, and the Ret is between 2 and 10 m<sup>2</sup>/Pa.W.
7. The cover of claim 1 or 6 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 1.
8. The cover of claim 1 or 6 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 5.
9. Use of a cover of claim 1 or 6 in aerobic composting to cover waste material in which the porous polymeric layer of the laminate faces the waste material.
10. A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material, which comprises a laminate of
  - a) a porous polymeric layer adhered to
  - b) at least one woven, non-woven or knit fabric, in which the laminate has
    - i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
    - ii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
    - iii) an Ret less than 15 m<sup>2</sup> Pa/W;
 and in which the porous polymeric layer has an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μm.
11. The cover of claim 10 wherein the fabric has a tensile strength greater than 1000 N/5 cm.
12. The cover of claim 11 wherein the fabric comprises a polyester, polyacrylate, polypropylene or a fluoropolymer.

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- 5 13. The cover of claim 10, 11 or 12 wherein the porous polymeric layer is selected from polyolefins, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyurethane or a fluoropolymer.
- 10 14. The cover of claims 10, 11 or 12 wherein the porous polymeric layer is porous polytetrafluoroethylene.
- 15 15. The cover of claim 10 wherein the air permeability is between 15 and 50  $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$  at 200 Pa pressure difference; the water entry pressure is greater than 50 kPa; the Ret is between 2 and 10  $\text{m}^2/\text{Pa}/\text{W}$ ; and the average pore size of the porous polymeric layer is between 0.3 and 3 micrometers.
- 20 16. The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing towards the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 1.
17. The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 5.
- 25 18. Use of a cover of claim 10 or 16 in aerobic composting to cover waste material in which the porous polymeric layer of the laminate faces the waste material.

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